

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

March 12, 2002

Department of Natural Resources
Room 2000

Minutes

Members Present:

SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill - Water Rights
SOWARDS, Glade - DNR/ADMIN
HARTY, Kimm - UGS
GRUBAUGH-LITTIG, Pam - DOGM
MORTENSEN, Duane - DERR
GUNNELL, Roy - UDAF
BIRKES, William - DEQ – Drinking Water
MILLIS, Eric - Water Resources
THOMPSON, Bill - DPR
CARTER, Kevin – TLA
MESCH, Mark - DOGM

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn - GOPB/DNR
GNOJEK, Tom - BLM
DELOS SANTOS, Annette - BLM
LANDURETH, Brenda - DNR/ADMIN
JOHNSON, Floyd - BLM

I. Approval of January 8, 2002 Minutes

Bill Schlotthauer, the chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 9:07 a.m.

Kimm Harty made a motion to approve the January 8, 2002 minutes. Pam Grubaugh-Littig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Special Presentations

San Rafael Travel Plan

Floyd Johnson, BLM

Tom Gnojek, Recreation Program Leader, BLM

Tom Gnojeck presented information on the San Rafael Route Designation Plan, #1608 is a high priority item on the RDCC Project Management System. The comment period began on February 7, 2002 and ends on March 22, 2002 (Governor's Office of Planning and Budget). Utah Geological Survey and the Division of Wildlife Resources have provided comments on the EA. Please forward DNR comments to Glade Sowards today (March 12, 2002). Copies of the plan are available on the internet.

The planning area is located in Emery County and includes the San Rafael Swell and San Rafael Desert, which is west of State Highway 10 down to the Wayne County line. BLM initiated this effort with route designation in the San Rafael Resource Management Plan

(1991). This plan focuses on road and trail access for recreational use on public lands (1.2 million acres). A good inventory of what access is available is needed.

Designation of specific roads and trails is included in this Environmental Assessment (EA) and is intended to designate areas for access and to provide many opportunities for recreational use on public land.

Four alternatives have been proposed in the EA. 1.) Maximum inventory routes – open, 2.) Inventoried routes except wilderness areas, and 3.) Maximum use and reduce user conflicts, and 4.) This is proposed alternative, includes alternative 3 plus incorporates loop riding opportunities for OHV users. The EA intended to focus on casual/non-permitted use authorization and to improve and direct traffic in areas where people desire motorized access. No established routes will be closed. Sensitive areas may be closed. BLM has received input from the county.

Mark Mesch asked what the status will be when the San Rafael Monument is designated by the President. The EA will move forward to implementation (determine use and to start marking trails). BLM will probably manage the monument. State Institutional Trust Lands Administration will be working on land exchanges. RDCC will be involved in San Rafael Monument designation (review and make recommendations).

Mark Mesch also made a comment regarding access to active mining claims. Individuals with previously permitted access will not be precluded from access.

Annette Delos Santos stated that there is a large amount of interest in this area (state lands, OHV and other recreational issues) and that the San Rafael might be a good site for a NRCC field trip.

Kimm Harty asked a question regarding access for state lands administrative access and also access for data collection. These activities would require a permit for access/grant right-away for particular uses.

III. Report from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Bill Schlotthauer reported for the Division of Water Rights that Bob Morgan has been appointed as the Executive Director for the Department of Natural Resources. Jerry Olds was also appointed as the new State Engineer. Boyd Clayton is the Assistant State Engineer for Technical Services.

Kennecott Utah Copper requested that the southwest Salt Lake valley water distribution be based upon priority dates (a first in Utah). Jerry Olds will work with the non-technical/public groups and Bill Schlotthauer will work with the technical groups on water priorities in the southwestern part of the state. Implementing priority distribution in southwestern Utah where there are known overdrafts in a fair manner.

Pam Grubaugh-Littig mentioned that water users, surface water rights and coal mining concerns in Emery County should be interesting this year with current drought conditions. Urbanized areas, wells and other water uses will also be impacted.

Annette Delos-Santos reported that the Richfield Plan Scoping Meeting will be held on March 21, 2002, at 7:00 p.m., at This is the Place State Park, in Salt Lake City. The BLM email and internet is back online, so the E-Briefs will now be available, please sign up on line or provide your contact information to Annette Delos-Santos. The grazing allotments for Willow Gulch has some concerns regarding litigation. The Last Chance EA was mailed out early for RDCC review and comments.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.